

DECISION NUMBER: PCCG-2015-067

**MINUTES OF THE ANIMAL WELFARE MEETING
HELD ON 22nd OCTOBER 2015, 4.00PM
AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, CROESYCEILIOG**

PRESENT: Mr E J Harry - Chair
Mr Paul Harris – Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner
Councillor Lisa Winnett – Blaenau Gwent
Mrs Laura Buchanan-Smith
Ms Gill Mason
Mr Martyn Evans
Sgt Julie Pearce - Dog Section, Gwent Police
Insp Martyn Smith – Roads Policing, Gwent Police
Maria Chapman – Scheme Administrator, OPCC
Jessica Tippins – Assistant Scheme Administrator, OPCC

The meeting began at 4.02pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE **ACTION**
Apologies for absence were received from Inspector Kate Parker.

2 CONFIRM MINUTES OF MEETING OF 8th JUNE 2015
We received and confirmed the minutes from the meeting held on the 8th June 2015. The following was highlighted:

Gill Mason (GM) raised that her apologies were not recorded on the meeting's minutes. This has since been amended.

A query was made regarding the reporting of the RSPCA updates. The group were made aware that whilst Inspector Emma Smith was on maternity leave, her updates would be provided by a lay visitor who also worked for the RSPCA.

3 OPERATIONAL UPDATE FROM THE DOG SECTION SERGEANT
Sergeant Julie Pearce (JP) updated the group on the Dog Section. We were made aware that a number of dogs had been retired:

- PD Roy was retired due to his old age;
- PD Jack had developed spondylosis and therefore had to be retired on medical grounds;
- PD Benny was identified to not be using his leg correctly and therefore also had to be retired (however JP reassured the group that a vet had reviewed him and could not find anything medically wrong); and
- PD Zorro had sadly developed cancer and therefore had to be put down.

The group was then informed that two new dogs had successfully been trained. Both PD Osmar and PD Taylor were sourced from the West

Midlands. It was noted that PD Taylor took prisoners on his first shift on duty. JP confirmed that two dogs were to commence their training in the near future and that more dogs would be trained as older dogs retired.

We were notified that the new Dog Section Twitter account was proving highly popular with the public and now had over 1,000 followers. This success was praised by a number of the visitors. The Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, Mr Paul Harris (DPCC) expressed his pleasure at the positive response received by the account.

4 SCHEME UPDATE

The Scheme Administrator, Maria Chapman (MC) presented the Scheme Update to the group. It was mentioned that report forms were still not being received by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC). This raised an issue regarding the monitoring of the welfare of Gwent's Police dogs. It was asked that visitors send in the OPCC report sheets direct to the OPCC using the self-addressed envelopes which were provided at the meeting. The DPCC suggested that because the operating model within Gwent Police has now changed that the group undertake a review of the Animal Welfare scheme to ensure that it was running as efficiently as possible. MC confirmed that she would arrange a task and finish group for members of the Animal Welfare Scheme and Gwent Police Force to contribute their opinions to the review.

MC

MC made the group aware that the six-monthly visit to the Waterton Kennels was due and asked for any volunteers who would like to attend. Gill Mason, Martyn Evans and Lisa Winnett raised their interest.

The group were then asked whether there was any training requirements they had identified since the last meeting. GM asked if there could be training provided on what to look for when inspecting the kennels. JP confirmed she would produce an aide memoir to facilitate this.

JP

A query was raised regarding whether Gwent visitors could make comments to the Waterton staff regarding South Wales dogs. It was confirmed that visitors could make comments and visit Waterton at any time.

5 RSPCA UPDATE BY INSPECTOR GARY LUCAS

We acknowledged the RSCPA update.

6 ANIMAL WELFARE VISITING AIDE

We acknowledged the Animal Welfare Visiting Aide

7 SOUTH WALES ANIMAL WELFARE SCHEME

We acknowledged the South Wales Animal Welfare scheme agenda and minutes.

8 2016 ANIMAL WELFARE MEETING DATES

We acknowledged and agreed the 2016 Animal Welfare meeting dates.

- 8th February 2016
- 6th June 2016
- 10th October 2016

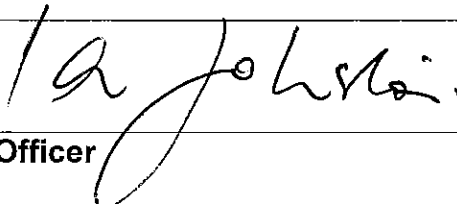
9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair (EH) announced to the group that he would be retiring from the animal welfare scheme following this meeting. He confirmed he would attend the next meeting and thanked the group stating he had enjoyed his time on the scheme. The DPCC, MC and JP each thanked EH for his contribution to the scheme.

GM queried when the next Gwent Dog Trials would be held. JP announced that due to a lack of resources there would not be a Gwent Dog Trial this year. She did however confirm that if the opportunity arose, an event would be held. GM expressed her concern because the trials offered a positive image of Gwent Police to the public.

The meeting concluded at 4.52pm.

The next Animal Welfare Meeting has been scheduled for **4pm** on **8th February 2016** in **Conference Room 1**. Please can all visitors note that they will be required to go to the main Police Headquarters reception to gain access to the meeting room. Attendance before 4pm is advisable as the main reception doors are locked from 4pm

Ian Johnston QPM, Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent	
I have monitored the Animal Welfare Scheme Minutes and am satisfied with progress.	
Signed 	Date 9.11.15.
Contact Officer	
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Background papers	None

